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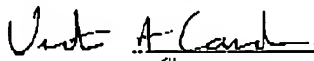
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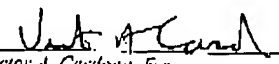
FAX No.: 1-703-872-9306

NO. OF PAGES: 11 (Transmittal & Amendment)

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER (Small Entity)					Docket No. 1791.007	
Applicant(s): Van Acker						
Application No. 10/785,145	Filing Date 02/24/2004	Examiner Jesus D. Sotelo	Customer No. 23405	Group Art Unit 3617	Confirmation No. 8182	
Invention: SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR ALLOWING UNDERWATER ESCAPE FROM A SUBMARINE						
<u>COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:</u>						
Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.						
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27						
The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.						
CLAIMS AS AMENDED						
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST # PREV. PAID FOR	NUMBER EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE	
TOTAL CLAIMS	34	33	1 x	\$9.00	\$9.00	
INDEP. CLAIMS	5	4	1 x	\$44.00	\$44.00	
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00	
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					\$53.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for amendment. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. 08-1935 in the amount of _____ <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-1935 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17. <input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.						
WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.						
 Signature VICTOR A. CARDONA, ESQ. Attorney for Applicant - Reg. No. 44,589			Dated: December 6, 2004			

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile on **December 6, 2004** to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, Attn: Examiner Jesus D. Sotelo Group Art Unit 3617, at Facsimile No. (703) 872-9306.


 Victor A. Cardona, Esq.
 Registration No. 44,589
 Attorney for Applicants

Date of Signature: **December 6, 2004**

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Docket No.: 1791.007

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

<i>Applicant:</i>	Van Acker	<i>Confirmation No.:</i>	8182
<i>Serial No.:</i>	10785.145	<i>Group Art Unit:</i>	3617
<i>Filed:</i>	February 24, 2004	<i>Examiner:</i>	Jesus D. Sotelo
<i>Title:</i>	SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR ALLOWING UNDERWATER ESCAPE FROM A SUBMARINE		

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Attn: Examiner Jesus O. Sotelo Group Art Unit 3617, at Facsimile No. (703) 872-9306.

Victor A. Cardona
Victor A. Cardona, Esq.
Registration No. 44,589
Attorney for Applicants

Date of Signature: December 6, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Fax No.: (703) 872-9306
No. of Pages: 11
(including Amendment Transmittal)

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Dear Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed on September 29, 2004, in connection with the above-identified U.S. patent application. The three-month period for response expires on December 29, 2004. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper